

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
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FOR AMB. JEAN WILKOWSKI

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TATT, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE DEBATE OVER PARTICIPATION IN UN
CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

REF: TOKYO 04293

1. NATIONAL COMMITTEE HAS SUBMITTED DRAFT OF JAPANESE
NATIONAL PAPER FOR UN CONFERENCE TO PRIME MINISTER'S
COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. INTERNAL DISSENSION
AMONG MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE HAS SURFACED; MORE LIBERAL
MEMBERS (PRINCIPALLY DR. TAKASHI MUKAIBO, PRESIDENT OF
UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO) CLAIM THAT PAPER IS TOO INTROSPECTIVE
AND WILL NOT SATISFY NEEDS OF CONFERENCE. PAPER IS SAID
TO BE LARGEY A HISTORICAL EXAMINATION OF METAMORPHOSIS
OF JAPAN FROM RURAL, FEUDAL SOCIETY TO TECHNOLOGICALLY
ADVANCED AND ECONOMICALLY POWERFUL NATION, AND DOES NOT
ADDRESS IN DEPTH HOW ADVANCED NATIONS CAN ASSIST LDC'S
IN OBTAINING BENEFITS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

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2. SCICOUNS WAS ABLE TO HOLD PRIVATE DISCUSSION ON
SUBJECT WITH DR. MUKAIBO ON APRIL 7. MUKAIBO, IN
CHARACTERISTIC FASHION, PULLED NO PUNCHES. HE IS INDEED
GREATLY DISTURBED ABOUT QUALITY OF PAPER AND IS BENT ON
ENLISTING SUPPORT OF OTHER MAJOR SCIENTIFIC FIGURES IN
JAPAN TO REWRITE PAPER. HE TOLD SCICOUNS THAT PAPER

FAILS IN TWO MAJOR AREAS: (A) IT DOES NOT PROPOSE MEANS FOR INCREASING FLOW AND EXCHANGE OF S&T WITH LDC'S; (B) IT DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND RELATED CONCERNS OF LDC'S. MUKAIBO SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY PROPOSED CORRECTIVE ACTION TO SCIENCE COUNCIL OF JAPAN, HEADED BY NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT, DR. KOJI FUSHIMI OF NAGOYA UNIVERSITY. (FUSHIMI IS ALSO OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF CHANGING TRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC STRUCTURE OF JAPAN). IN ADDITION, MUKAIBO HAD ASKED JAPAN SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF SCIENCE TO INVITE DR. FREDERICK SEITZ TO COME TO JAPAN TO ELABORATE ON BEST APPROACHES TO BE USED IN UNCSTD. DR. SEITZ HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO INVITATION, AND DR. MUKAIBO SAID THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING INVITING DR. WALTER ORR ROBERTS TO COME HERE AS REPLACEMENT FOR SEITZ.

3. SCICOUNS INFORMED MUKAIBO THAT DR. ROBERTS IS DUE TO BE IN TOKYO ON APRIL 25 TO PARTICIPATE IN CEREMONY FOR AWARD OF FOURTH MARCONI INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP TO PROF. E. COLIN CHERRY OF UK. MUKAIBO ASKED THAT EMBASSY TRY TO OBTAIN DR. ROBERTS' ITINERARY SO THAT A MEETING WITH HIM COULD BE ARRANGED TO DISCUSS UNCSTD. THIS APPEARS TO BE FORTUITOUS OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST JAPANESE IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF THEIR COUNTRY PAPER, AND WE URGENTLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPT. OBTAIN DR. ROBERTS' TRAVEL SCHEDULE AND ASCERTAIN IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET

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AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME WITH DR. MUKAIBO AND OTHER SENIOR SCIENCE POLICY OFFICIALS. CABLE REPLY REQUESTED.

4. WHEN EMBOFF BEGAN TO DESCRIBE DEPTH OF U.S. PREPARATION FOR UNCSTD, DR. MUKAIBO SAID THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH WHAT U.S. WAS DOING AND WAS VERY IMPRESSED. HE ASKED SCICOUNS TO CONVEY TO AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI HIS PERSONAL INVITATION TO COME TO JAPAN TO EXPLAIN U.S. APPROACH AND TO PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE HERE TO INCREASE LEVEL AND QUALITY JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN UN CONFERENCE. IF AMB. WILKOWSKI HAS TIME TO ACCEPT INVITATION, EMBASSY WILL BE DELIGHTED TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF ANY EFFORTS MADE BY DRS. SEITZ OR ROBERTS AND WOULD SERVE TO HEAVILY INFLUENCE POLITICAL OFFICIALS WHO ARE NOT AS COGNIZANT OF SCIENCE POLICY IMPLICATIONS AS LIBERAL MEMBERS OF ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. CABLE RESPONSE TO DR. MUKAIBO'S INVITATION REQUESTED. MANSFIELD

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